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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SUBJECT	Civilian Antiaircraft and Chemical Defense	DATE DISTR.	27 September 1955
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COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 23 August 1955

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

Prior to 1953, Bulgaria had no civilian defense training program other than DOSO (Voluntary Organization for Defense Assistance - Dobrovolna Organizatsiya za Sudeistvie na Otbrana). Early in 1953, the so-called Local Anti-Aircraft Defense Society (Mestna Protivo-Vozdushna Otbrana - MPVO) was established under military auspices to train the adult Bulgarian population in AAA and chemical defense. Source believed that the reason this new organization was formed was because DOSO, a youth training organization, had no adequate program for training the adult population. The Bulgarian Government based its reasons for establishing the MPVO on the alleged use of chemical and bacteriological agents by US troops in Korea. However, the overwhelming majority of Bulgarians discredited the validity of such propaganda.

The MPVO's primary responsibility was to supervise training programs for civilians employed in large industrial enterprises. Every factory of considerable size nominated an MPVO instructor through its political committee to train the factory's labor forces. Participation was on a voluntary basis and was held after working hours for one hour twice each week. Because training was held after working hours, the employees were mostly apathetic. No compensation of any kind was given for participation in the program. Source estimated that only one-tenth of the total labor force volunteered and believed that this apathetic attitude existed throughout Bulgaria.

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3. Source believes that the MPVO was directly subordinate to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The main headquarters was located in Sofia on Cherveny Ploshchad in the House of Soviets (Dom Sovyetov). Sub-headquarters were located in the following okrug administrative centers:

Blagoevgrad
Khaskovo (N41-55, E 25-32)
Pleven (N 43-25, E 24-36)
Sofia
Burgas
Vratsa (N 43-13, E 23-32)
Stara Zagora
Turnovo (N 43-04, E 25-40)
Kolarovgrad
Ruse
Stalin (formerly Varna)
Plovdiv

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These okrug city offices were believed to be headed by officers of the Bulgarian security forces. Capt. Marinov (fnu) and his assistant, Sr. Lt Stoyanov (fnu), were the MPVO chiefs in Ruse;

4. Training consisted of first aid, poison-gas identification, and fire fighting; equipment was requisitioned from the MPVO okrug headquarters. Chemical defense was stressed much more than AA defense. that large industrial enterprises kept their own gas masks on the factory premises.

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